

Serial No.: 10/507,467

Office Action Date: April 17, 2007

Amendment Dated: July 17, 2007

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 16 and amend claims 1, 4, 5, 20 and 22 of the above-identified application as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit, which is connectable to a gas source and which includes an outlet end, ~~and;~~

a porous body, which is manufactured of a foam rubber-like material and is provided at said outlet end, wherein the device is arranged to transmit said supply of gas through the porous body to create a protective gas atmosphere in the area;

a filter arranged on the supply conduit for filtering said supply of gas flowing through the supply conduit; and

~~the device includes an attachment member, which includes~~ including a first surface ~~and, a second surface, a sleeve extending outwardly away from the porous body and being connected to the outlet end,~~ and a continuous channel extending through the sleeve, said second and surface, and the first surface ~~surface,~~ respectively;

wherein the porous body is attached to said first surface and wherein the outlet end is connected to the attachment member for transmitting said supply in a direction through said outlet end, said channel and said porous body, respectively, for creating said protective gas atmosphere.

2. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first surface of the attachment member covers substantially the whole porous body seen in a first direction extending from the attachment member through the body.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein the sleeve extends in a direction forming an angle to the first direction x, wherein said angle is 0 to 90°.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein the supply conduit projects into the sleeve, or that the sleeve projects into the supply conduit.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein the attachment member and the porous body are substantially circular seen in the first direction x.

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7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 6, wherein the porous body has a substantially semispherical surface which faces away from the attachment member.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the supply conduit includes at least a first conduit portion with a casing of a material, which has a large flexibility, and with a means for stiffening, which extends along the casing and has a lower flexibility than the casing.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means is plastically deformable.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means includes a metal wire.

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means extends substantially freely within the first conduit portion of the supply conduit.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the foam rubber-like material includes polyurethane foam with open cells.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the porous body includes a homogenous body.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said gas includes a main component which is carbon dioxide.

18. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the porous body is arranged to supply said gas in a control flow in order to enable deformation of a gas cushion, which is intended to substantially fill a volume at said area and thus prevents air from the surroundings to reach said area.

19. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said area adjoins an inner portion of the body of a human being or an animal, which portion is open outwardly towards the surroundings, wherein the porous body is arranged to be located at said outwardly open inner portion.

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20. (Currently Amended) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit connectable to a gas source, including an outlet end;

a filter arranged on said supply conduit for filtering said supply of gas flowing through said supply conduit;

an attachment member connected to said outlet end and including a first surface, a second surface located opposite said first surface, a sleeve connected to the outlet end, and a centrally located continuous channel configured for receiving said supply conduit and extending through ~~both~~ said sleeve, said second and surface, and said first surface, respectively; and

a porous body provided at said outlet end and having a proximal end attached to said first surface and a distal end free of attachment, the porous body being in direct fluid communication with said supply conduit and arranged to transmit the supply of gas in a direction through the outlet end, the channel and the porous body, respectively, for creating a protective gas atmosphere in the area, said sleeve extending outwardly away from the porous body.

21. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 20, wherein said porous body is manufactured of a permeable material including at least one of paper, felt, sinter metal and filter material.

22. (Currently Amended) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit connectable to a gas source and including an outlet

end;

a filter arranged on the supply conduit for filtering said supply of gas flowing through the supply conduit;

an attachment member including a first surface, a second surface located opposite said first surface, a sleeve ~~surrounding said conduit and directly projecting from said second surface~~ connected to the outlet end; and a continuous channel extending through said sleeve and said second and first surfaces, respectively; and

a porous body projecting from said first surface in a direction opposite from said sleeve, said porous body having at least twice the thickness of said attachment member;

wherein said porous body is in direct fluid communication with said outlet end to transmit the supply of gas in a direction through said outlet end, said channel and said porous body, respectively, for creating a protective gas atmosphere in the area.